



EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 23
GOVERNOR'S SCIENTIFIC ADVISORY PANEL ON OFFSHORE ENERGY

WHEREAS, North Carolina's coast has many potential energy production opportunities, including oil, natural gas, wind, and other renewable sources of energy; and

WHEREAS, the United States Department of Interior through its Minerals Management Service is proposing three oil and natural gas lease sales off the East Coast during the period 2010 to 2015; and

WHEREAS, a recent study by the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill finds significant potential for wind energy in the sounds and ocean waters off the North Carolina coast; and

WHEREAS, the technologies employed in extracting oil and natural gas and in harnessing wind and other offshore energy resources are continuously evolving; and

WHEREAS, the level of scientific knowledge about the potential benefits and risks of all types of offshore energy has also made significant advances; and

WHEREAS, wise stewardship of North Carolina's coastal resources is vital, not only to the local economy, environment, and public health and safety, but also to that of the entire state; and

WHEREAS, any policies and positions regarding the use of North Carolina's offshore oil, natural gas, wind, and other renewable energy resources must be based on sound science and a thorough evaluation of all available and relevant information.

NOW THEREFORE, by the power vested in me as Governor by the Constitution and laws of North Carolina, **IT IS ORDERED**:

Section 1. Establishment

The Governor's Scientific Advisory Panel on Offshore Energy ("Scientific Advisory Panel") is hereby established. The Scientific Advisory Panel shall consist of at least seven members, but

no more than 15 members, including ex-officio members. The Governor shall appoint a Chair of the Scientific Advisory Panel.

Section 2. Term of Membership and Vacancies

All members shall be appointed for a term of two (2) years and shall serve at the pleasure of the Governor. A vacancy occurring during a term of appointment shall be filled by the Governor for the balance of the unexpired term.

Section 3. Meetings

The Scientific Advisory Panel shall meet quarterly or at the call of the Governor.

- a. A majority of the members of the Scientific Advisory Panel shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business.
- b. No per diem allowance shall be paid to members of the Scientific Advisory Panel. Members of the Scientific Advisory Panel may receive necessary travel and subsistence expenses in accordance with State law and the policies and regulations of the Office of State Budget and Management.

Section 4. Duties

The Scientific Advisory Panel shall have the following duties:

- a. Perform a comprehensive evaluation of the potential of all offshore energy resources available to North Carolina, including oil, natural gas, wind, and other renewable resources.
- b. Report on the current state of all relevant technologies for utilizing these resources, as well as on their feasibility for use in North Carolina.
- c. Identify any benefits and areas of concern related to use of these energy resources, including those related to the economy, emergency management and public safety, the environment, existence of necessary infrastructure for resource extraction and power generation, and the availability of federal revenue sharing.
- d. Inventory current laws, rules, and processes that affect the utilization of offshore energy resources including, but not limited to, federal leasing programs, state and federal permitting programs, and local zoning and ordinances.
- e. Review relevant laws, regulations, policies, practices, and developments in other states, including those related to federal revenue sharing; permitting and siting of offshore energy facilities; and protection of the environment, public health, and public safety.

- f. Evaluate federal proposals for use of North Carolina's offshore energy resources, including any proposals from the United States Minerals Management Service for offshore oil and gas lease sales.
- g. Make policy recommendations to ensure that North Carolina has a comprehensive plan for using its offshore resources wisely and to the benefit of its citizens.

Section 5. Duration

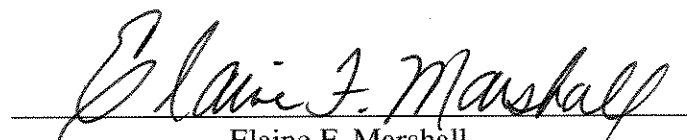
This Executive Order shall be effective immediately. It shall remain in effect until September 18, 2011, pursuant to N.C. Gen. Stat. § 147-16.2, or until rescinded.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto signed my name and affixed the Great Seal of the State of North Carolina at the Capitol in the City of Raleigh, this eighteenth day of September in the year of our Lord two thousand and nine, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and thirty-fourth.




Beverly Eaves Perdue
Governor

ATTEST:


Elaine F. Marshall
Secretary of State